🎔 A Revelation of Infinite Love 🎔

🎔 A Glimpse of Our Journey in Experiencing It 🎔

* The Opportunity of a Lifetime for You 🎔

**The Most Important Opportunity of a Lifetime**

In today’s world most of us desire to experience true love, acceptance and friendship in a world plagued with cold indifference, selfishness and lustful exploitation. Deb and I would like to share with you about a true love that we have discovered along our journey in life. A love that has enriched and transformed our lives in so many ways. It is a love that is patient. A love that is kind and merciful. A love that is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not selfish, nor does it exploit others but is giving. It is not irritable, and it never keeps a record of being wronged but forgives. In fact, it is a love that enables you to love, forgive and bless even your enemies. It never rejoices about injustice, but rejoices whenever what is right and truthful prevails. This love never quits, never loses faith, is always hopeful, it endures through every circumstance and it never fails (see I Corinthians 13:1-7 NLT). It is a love that brings healing emotionally, physically and spiritually. A love which, breaks every bondage and life controlling habit. A love that sets us free from the power and penalty of negative unwholesome behaviour. This kind of love seems impossible in the natural and it is, because it is supernatural. It is God’s love and it is available to all or anyone of us who will seek for it. It is a purity of love that we experience only in part in our earthly relationships. For example, between a parent and their child, a husband and a wife, between a grandparent and their grandchildren or between brothers and sisters. It may also be experienced in part through true and lasting friendship with others outside our family. Others may experience it in part with a very precious pet animal.

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However to experience the fullness and depth of such love we need to discover and encounter the true and living God. *“For God is love”* (John 4:8). Deb and I encourage you to take time and meditatively read through this message. Take this most important opportunity of a lifetime and discover God’s unparalleled love for you and all your family.

**Love and Paradise Lost**

Some may question; “If God is love, why is there so much pain, suffering, hatred, killing, and destruction in the world?” First of all we must understand that the world we see today is not the world God originally created. God’s original creation was perfect. It was without sorrow, pain, or suffering without sickness or death and without selfishness, lust, hatred and killing. It was wonderful, it was awesome and it was filled with love, hope and beauty. It was a world where God Himself walked in loving communion with His ultimate creation man and woman – Adam and Eve (see Genesis chapter 1 to 3). For those who may think or believe that Genesis is only a story and not literal history let us encourage you to read further.

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**Is Everything We Believe the Truth?**

Hopefully we are all searching for genuine truth. In order to find truth we must be willing to lay aside our preconceived ideas or learned thoughts that may be faulty or erroneous. Sometimes we can believe what is false because it is what we’ve been taught or many people believe in it or we are comfortable with it. We need to realize that even though there are things we’ve been taught that are true, there are also things that we’ve been taught that are not true and that at times we’ve been deceived. Deb and I are both graduates from the University of Western Ontario. Earlier in my academic studies I was enrolled in Honours Zoology at the University of Guelph. We've both had the privilege of being involved in higher learning and education. We appreciate the benefits of our secular education, but as we’ve opened our hearts and minds to other realms of learning we’ve discovered that not all we were taught is true.

Not one person on earth has a full knowledge or understanding of historical truth, scientific truth or in any other realm of knowledge for that matter. Therefore we all need to remain open to new information and new perspectives on what is really true in all realms of knowledge. This includes the realm of the spiritual and supernatural. Just because one has not experienced this area personally does not negate the real experiences of millions who have encountered it. We need to learn from other trustworthy and proven human voices that have experiences, wisdom and knowledge that may enlighten us on our journey through life. No human being was around when the universe began or when life was formed or created on planet earth. However, there is one Person who was there and He wrote a book about what happened, it is called the Bible. The Author and Inspirer of Holy Scripture is all knowing and all powerful and it would serve us well to humbly consider His perspective on these matters. Those of you who doubt the reality of God’s existence please consider the following. None of us knows everything. We don’t even know one half of everything. Do you think it might be possible that God is clearly revealed in the other half of truth and knowledge you have not yet discovered? Deb and I know and have had the great privilege of experiencing God in our lives. Let us share with you practically how we’ve encountered God in our journey.

**Some of Our Personal Encounters with the Living God**

The following incidents reveal how we have personally experienced God’s love through adversity in our lives. We hope and pray that it will help you to understand that God is very real. That for all who believe and call upon Him He lovingly undertakes for them in the midst of every test and trial. Also that God truly does work all things together for the good of those who love and seek Him. Even though satanic forces may come against us to destroy us. The Lord is always able to turn the situation around for our good. Adversity builds character, endurance and produces greater humility in our lives. God through the adversity and tests we have faced in our journey has made us better people and revealed Himself to us in a very special way. We pray that these brief episodes from our journey will help you realize that God desires to help you in your trials if only you will truly trust Him. No matter what you may face God is your Saviour, your Healer, your Provider and your Deliverer. His love never fails.

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**The Father’s Love Practically Revealed**

Deb and I have experienced the reality of our Heavenly Father’s loving providential care and blessing on us and all our family. Just as it is revealed in the following scripture;

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose … “What then shall we say to these things? If God (the Father) be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also freely give us all things? …Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? … Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us* (Romans 8:31, 32, 35, 37).

Our Heavenly Father truly loves us as He demonstrated by giving us His Son and He will also freely give us whatever we may need in whatever situation or peril we encounter. We have seen His love and faithfulness again and again and especially in our trials.

**“Jesus Loves You Baby Boy”**

For example, in 1984 when we lost our little boy Johnathan at 6 months into Deb’s pregnancy. Even though we were devastated by the loss our Heavenly Father was so very near to us strengthening us and comforting us. Just before the memorial service for Johnathan at our home, my sister Pam came to me with tears in her eyes. In her devotional for that day the title of the message was “Jesus Loves You Baby Boy”. It was a special message of comfort to those who had tragically lost a precious child. In it was the passage regarding King David and the loss of his new born son to Bathsheba. God used what David declared regarding his son as a great source of comfort to Deb and myself, *“I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me”* (2 Samuel 12:23b). The Lord was lovingly assuring us that although Johnathan was gone to be with Him, one day in the not to distant future we would be going to heaven to be reunited with him. (Please request our “Where in the World Are We Headed?” booklet for further understanding). This devotional message was no coincidence. It was a powerful demonstration of God’s foreknowledge and His loving concern and care for us.

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**Our Father‘s Word of Comfort, Healing and Life**

Then there was the time when Deb had a tubal pregnancy that ruptured and left her bleeding internally. The nurse in the emergency area of the Hospital totally misread the seriousness of her condition. They left her to wait in an emergency area cubicle literally bleeding to death before my eyes. I could see Deb’s deteriorating condition so I urged the nurse to get a doctor. She refused until finally the doctor on call to the emergency area emerged from surgery and quickly assessed the criticalness of her condition. Her blood pressure was plummeting due to the loss of blood so they put her on two intravenous units one on each arm in an attempt to stabilize her pressure. Then they rushed her upstairs to the operating area. Meanwhile I went to the Hospital Chapel to pray. I knew her condition was critical as we had been some two hours in the emergency waiting area as her life was literally ebbing away. I told the Lord that I loved her dearly and pleaded for His intervention. I told Him that even if He took her I would [](http://www.christart.com/clipart/download/1744/)love Him and serve Him. It was at this point that Don a relatively new Christian received a word of knowledge from God for me. He said that the Lord wanted me to look up Ezekiel chapter 16; verse 6. From what I understand Don being a new Christian had never even read this relatively obscure passage in the Old Testament. It was truly a divine message sent from my loving Heavenly Father to comfort me in my moment of distress and it surely did! In this passage God is speaking and this is what He said;

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*“And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, “Live!” Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!”* (Ezekiel 16:6).

From that moment on I had new assurance that my sweetheart would make it. She was in our Father’s loving care and she would make it thanks to His great mercy and healing power. In the delay to get her into surgery Debra had lost 7 units of blood. Then she was nearly suffocated by her own blood after the attending nurse elevated her legs and stuck her in a closet while waiting another half an hour for the operating room to be prepared. Truly the Lord miraculously saved her life and thankfully she suffered no ill effects despite the terrible misjudgments of the hospital staff.

**A Miracle for My Earthly Father**

One final testimony concerns my Dad. In June of 1986 my father suffered a massive heart attack which would have proved fatal except for the miraculous intervention of God. In an effort to keep my Dad alive the doctors surgically implanted a pacemaker in hope that his heart would respond to it. Sadly his heart was so badly damaged by the attack that the pacemaker had no effect. His condition began to rapidly deteriorate until his kidneys failed. At this point the doctors had given up hope of Dad’s survival. They notified my Mom and shared with her the gravity of the situation and that they didn’t expect him to live out the day. Consequently all the family was called in to be with him for his final hours. My sister Pam and I had been with Dad all night and had gone home to get some rest when the call to return came. Upon returning to the hospital we did not immediately go up to the intensive care area but went to the Hospital Chapel to pray. While in prayer God spoke to my heart that my Dad would not die but that He would live. Immediately supernatural faith arose in my heart and we proceeded upstairs to the intensive care area. I went into the special waiting area where Mom and many of the family were gathered. I told her that Dad was not going to die and that she needed to put her trust in Jesus. While I was sharing with her an urgent call came from my brother David who was with Dad. My father was so terrified because when he was losing consciousness he literally was seeing flames licking at his feet. In his terror he was wrestling with my brother in an attempt to get up and out of the hospital. Dad was not ready to meet the Lord and I believe he was getting a horrifying glimpse of what lay before him in eternity if he were to die in his unrepentant condition. However, God in His mercy had other plans. Pamela and I went in response to David’s call and when we arrived at Dad’s bedside I spoke to him. I shared with him that where Jesus is there is no flames or fire and that he should put his trust in Him to save him. Suddenly he tried one more time to rise up out of the bed. In that moment I called upon Jesus’ name. Immediately a powerful wave of God’s Spirit swept over us. Pam and I began to weep as His presence overwhelmed us. When the wave of God’s presence came upon my father he instantly went into complete rest and peace and never struggled again. From that moment onward his kidneys began to function again and his heart responded to the pacemaker. God’s miraculous healing power had been released into Dad’s life and his total recovery began. The doctors had no explanation for the incredible turn around and they could only say that it was a “miracle.” I thank our precious Lord for his mercy on my father and for the miracle of healing He accomplished in his life that day. God gave my Dad three more precious years with my Mom and with our family. During that time God did a work in Dad’s heart. Until finally just before he died he put his full trust in Jesus for salvation and the forgiveness of his sins. When my father died you could see the peace of God in his face. This time there was no fear or terror but only the great peace that comes in knowing the Prince of Peace as your Lord and Saviour. It is a great comfort to know that Dad is with Jesus in heaven. We’re so thankful to God for saving him and that one day soon we will see him again. These are only a few of the many experiences of God’s supernatural intervention in our lives.

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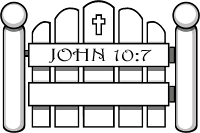
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**The Kingdom of Light and Truth vs. the Kingdom of Darkness and Lies**

It is because of this experiential knowledge that we know God is real beyond any shadow of doubt. On the other hand we also know experience that there are very real dark spiritual forces that are working against the human race to deceive us through lies. Their purpose as Jesus revealed is to steal, kill and destroy mankind temporally and eternally (John 10:10). Satan the “father of lies” (John 8:42-44), is a very real and powerful force in the world today. His army of fallen angelic beings are spiritual entities that are malevolent and whose primary goal is the deception and destruction of humankind. Why such unbridled hatred you may wonder? It is because we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and consequently an object of his hatred. Satan and his fallen demonic horde are doomed to eternal judgement. Out of pure hatred and spite they maliciously labour to deceive and take as many as possible of God’s creation with them to eternal destruction. Their motive also involves the prideful desire for power, control and worship. Satan was cast out of heaven because of his prideful desires to be worshipped as “God” (Isaiah 14:12-15). Consequently he and the demonic angels who joined him seek for the worship and control of the souls of God’s ultimate creation – humankind. They desire to steal the worship, adoration and service only deserving to the Creator for their own malevolent and prideful agenda. Sadly, Satan has become the “god” of this fallen world system (2 Corinthians 4:4). He and his fallen angelic host have deceived multitudes worldwide into following their sinful and rebellious agenda against God Almighty. They use a vast array of deceptive tools to capture the hearts, minds and souls of the human race. These include music, the media, false religion, false Christianity and the secular belief systems of naturalism, humanism and evolution. We will not pursue these areas of discussion at this time. However we want you to be aware of the powerful deceptive influences that are at work even now in all our lives. We hope and pray that you will begin to discern the battle for your eternal soul and open your heart to the truth of Almighty God and His love for you. We will (Lord willing) more fully address and expose these deceptive tools of the dark realm in our follow-up booklet “No Greater Truth.” At this time we urge you to be aware of the fact that there are very real evil and deceptive influences working against your mind to hinder you from seeing and knowing the truth. Thankfully there is also the more powerful drawing of the Spirit of God upon your life to bring you into the liberty and freedom of His truth.

**The Only Proven Source of Ultimate Truth**

Then Jesus said … *“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:31-32).

In a world system riddled with lies and deception it is critical that we heed Jesus’ instruction to abide (ie. Study and follow) in His Word – the Bible or Holy Scripture. Contrary to the many lies perpetrated against the Bible regarding supposed errors, lost portions, corruption, etc., etc. the Bible has fully and unerringly been preserved for our benefit just as Jesus promised. Jesus declared that,

*“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”* (Luke 21:33)

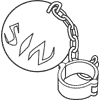
There are 5,600 well preserved ancient manuscripts of the New Testament far more than any other currently accepted historical document. The ancient Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1948 have also proven the accuracy and reliability of the Old Testament manuscripts we have today. Scholarly and honest research affirms that we can be fully assured that the Bible – God’s Word has been preserved just as Jesus promised. The Bible has also proven itself to be the inspired Word of God through the multitude of accurately fulfilled prophecies it contains of both past and present events. Please feel free to request a copy of our booklets “Countdown to Eternity” and “Where in the World Are We Headed?” for further information on the amazing accuracy of Biblical prophecy.

Another validation of the supernatural inspiration of the Bible is the Bible codes. The Bible codes were originally discovered by Jewish theological scholars who found hidden coded messages in the text of ancient scripture. Today both Christian and Jewish scholars with the aid of computer technology are finding a large quantity of these hidden encoded messages regarding modern historical events within the text of scripture. For example, many modern events such as the Jewish Holocaust and specific names such as Hitler, Eichmann, Auswich, etc. have been discovered encoded in the text. To learn more about these incredible discoveries you can go on line and search sites such as www.biblecodes.com. One final area that confirms the supernatural nature of the Bible and the Good News it contains is the multitude of miracles and healings that those who believe in it have experienced. All over the world people have received incredible miracle healings from terminal cancer, blindness, heart disease and every form of infirmity in Jesus’ Name. Earlier I shared some of our personal miracle experiences with God. Consequently, we can personally attest to the reality of such experiences and the validity of God’s Word.

**Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free**

In studying scripture for over 27 years and having been involved in pastoral ministry since November 1990, we have found the Bible to be unerringly accurate in science, history, philosophy and in all areas of truth. We encourage you to investigate for yourself God’s worldview as revealed in scripture. That you may discover His truth and His love that will set you free from the lies and deception that abound in so many areas of modern society. If you have any doubts regarding the life of Jesus Christ or the Bible’s accuracy or historical merit. Please feel free to request the DVD – “Jesus: Fact or Fiction”. This DVD involves many of today’s most renowned Biblical scholars addressing many of these related questions and issues in detail. Realize that fictitious literature and movie presentations such as “The DaVinci Codes” are all part of an evil effort to undermine your belief in Jesus and the Bible. Secular historians such as Josephus recorded details of the life of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. His writings confirm major biblical themes such as Jesus’ death and resurrection. The DVD “Jesus: Fact or Fiction” gives more information on this and we would be glad to make it available to help bring understanding in this area.

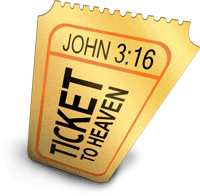
**The Bible Reveals How Our World Was Corrupted**

The Biblical historical account of the creation of the universe and life on planet earth recorded in Genesis also reveals how the original ideal conditions of the world were corrupted (Genesis chapter 3). Satan’s use of lies and deception caused man (Adam and Eve) to rebel and disobey God’s direct command. Consequently their fall into sin and rebellion brought a curse upon man and the earth. The results were devastating. Not only did man lose his opportunity for ongoing loving communion with God, he also forfeited his dominion over the earth to Satan and his evil angelic forces. Consequently, the cosmic battle of the ages was launched for the control of the minds and souls of humanity. Satan’s kingdom of darkness, espousing evil, lies, deception and bondage is at war against God’s kingdom of light, righteousness, truth and freedom (John 8:38-45; Ephesians 6:10-12). With this Satanic influence over the earth came the curse of evil, sickness, disease, pain and death. This curse affected all of nature. The animal kingdom which had lived in peace and total harmony eating only plant life became increasingly vicious and carnivorous - killing and eating one another. The ground which had freely brought forth abundant forms of food for man’s vegetarian diet now needed to be laboriously cultivated and weeded in order to be productive. Humans who had been solely vegetarian prior to the fall also eventually succumbed to carnivorous behaviour and began killing and eating animals. Before the fall there was no killing or death on the earth. Sadly man chose to yield to Satan’s evil influence and God’s loving, utopian paradise was lost, but not forever.

**God’s Plan to Save and Restore His Fallen Creation**

Even though mankind had chosen the way of sin and rebellion, God in his infinite love and wisdom had a plan to bring reconciliation and the redemption of the human race.

*“For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him”* (John 3:16-17 NLT).



In this most famous truth from the scriptures is revealed the greatest act of love in the history of the universe. God the Father in full agreement and cooperation with God the Son (Jesus Christ) lovingly agreed to send Jesus to save us by coming to earth as one of His own creation. His mission was to pay the ultimate price to redeem us from the curse of sin and satanic control and to restore our relationship with God.

**Jesus as God Had Unlimited Power and Glory**

In order to fully comprehend the magnitude of the love involved in this act we need to understand that Jesus is God the Son the all powerful Creator of the Universe.

*“He* (Jesus) *came into the very world He created, but the world didn’t recognize Him. He came to His own people* (The Jews), *and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed in Him and received Him, He gave the right* (power) *to become children of God”* (John 1:10-12).

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Jesus as part of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) was intricately involved in the creation of this vast universe. Many have difficulty grasping the concept of God being three persons in the one Entity we know as God. The following is a simple illustration to help in this regard. Water (H20) exists in three distinct forms – liquid, vapour and solid (ice). Each form is distinct and different but has the exact same composition or chemistry which is H2O. God exists in three distinct persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit but each one of them is composed of the exact same divine chemistry which we know as God. God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is the “Living Water” that is the only thing that can quench our thirsting souls and give us eternal life (John 4:10-14). If you meditate on this simple comparison you can begin to grasp the mystery of the Godhead. Simply remember that just as water is solid ice (H20), liquid (H20) and vapour (H20) our God is Father (GoD), Son (GoD) and Holy Spirit (GoD). Just as water exists in three distinct forms and is of the same substance so God exists in three distinct persons but all made of the exact same divine substance we know as God. Just as water vapour is everywhere so is God the Holy Spirit everywhere near us and around us. Each member of the Godhead is all powerful and mighty beyond our limited comprehension to fully understand. The magnitude of His power can begin to be understood when we look at our Sun. The Sun is a star of relatively average power and intensity of those stars found throughout the universe. How much power do you think our Sun generates in only one second? To use a standard of measure lets use the power of a nuclear explosion. How many nuclear explosions do you think it would take to produce the equivalent of the energy generated by our Sun in one second? What do you think – 100’s, 1000’s or millions? The answer really blew my mind. In one second our Sun generates the equivalent of the energy of 100 billion nuclear blasts! It is only one of trillions upon trillions of stars that are literally beyond counting throughout the universe. Meditate on that for a minute. Can you imagine the power that is generated by that vast innumerable host of stars? It is truly mind boggling. Then begin to imagine the limitless magnitude of the power of the Being who spoke every star and every planet, comet, asteroid, moon and galaxy into existence. The word “universe” means a single spoken sentence. Jesus Christ God the Son the “Word of God,” “Who was God” (John 1:1) and who became a human being (John 1:14) is the divine agent through which all the universe was created or spoken into existence (Genesis 1:1-31). *“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light.”* (Genesis 1:3).

**God Lovingly Becomes One Of His Own Creation**

Amazingly Jesus willingly laid aside His awesome power, glory and majesty as God in order to become one of His own creation. What a tremendous act of sacrificial love and humility as God clothed Himself in frail humanity and was born in a lowly stable in Bethlehem. The apostle Paul gives us some insight into this glorious truth and reality in his letter to the Philippians Jesus,

*“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, he did not think of equality with God* (the Father) *as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a servant and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form. He humbled Himself in obedience to God* (the Father) *and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God* (the Father) *elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

(Philippians 2:6-11)

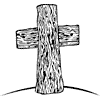
(God the Son) deservedly is to be honoured above all others as the Father desires. Not only did He humbly empty Himself of His great glory and power as God, He lovingly sacrificed Himself for us on the Cross.

**No Greater Love - Jesus Gives His Life for Us**

We need to ponder a moment this great act of love and sacrifice. Our glorious Creator allowed Himself to be falsely accused, mocked, viciously beaten, spat upon and scourged. Those of us who have seen the movie “The Passion of the Christ” realize the horrible punishment the Roman scourge inflicted. This punishment involved the use of a whip with nine leather lashes with pieces of sharp metal embedded into the end of each lash. When the victim was whipped the sharp metal pieces at the end of each lash would rip the flesh open with each stroke. The victim’s back would be literally torn to shreds after the required thirty nine lashes. Many men never survived the Roman scourge. The Roman soldiers then thrust a crown of long thorns upon Jesus’ precious brow and beat it down on His head with a rod making sure that the thorns embedded themselves into His scalp to secure it. Then He was mercilessly beaten, mocked and spat upon by an entire Roman Garrison or Regiment (600 men). It is little wonder why Jesus was unable to carry His cross after such horrendous physical torture and beating. We need to remember that the One who endured such torture at the hands of men was our God and our Creator and He did it for us. He was lovingly taking our punishment and our penalty for sin that we may be forgiven and go free of the eternal punishment we deserve. He was the sacrificial “Lamb of God” who was taking away our sin through the sacrifice of His own precious blood and life. Such love, such wondrous love that our God should die for me and that He should die for you.

**The Great Love of Our Heavenly Father Revealed**

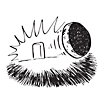
We need to also understand and appreciate our Heavenly Father and the incredible dimension of love that He demonstrated for us. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son to reveal Himself and His love for us that He might bring us back into relationship with Himself. The Father lovingly guided and encouraged his Son each step along His journey to the cross. At the launching of His Ministry John the Baptist announced His coming as *“the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the* *world”* (John 1:29). Then immediately after His baptism the Father spoke audibly from heaven. *“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”* (Matthew 3:17). Throughout His journey the Father was with Jesus speaking to Him even at times audibly that all could hear, encouraging Him, affirming, and strengthening Him. At times He would send others like Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9) or the ministering angel in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43) to encourage and strengthen Him. Can you imagine what it must have been like for His Father to hear the cries of His Son in Gethsemane as the torture of the cross loomed before him pleading;

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*“Abba Father all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from me, never the less, not My will, but Your will be done”* (Mark 14:31).

The Bible reveals that Jesus was in such agony in anticipation of what was about to happen, that His sweat became as great drops of blood (Luke 22:44). How would you feel, if you as a father or a mother heard and saw such distress in your son as he was about to be taken away to be cruelly executed? Knowing that you had the power to save him, but realizing you can’t because if you did millions would perish forever. It is a bit like a movie clip I recently saw about a railway Bridgeman who saw his little boy accidently fall into the bridge mechanism with an oncoming train approaching with hundreds of passengers on board. With no time to reach his son or to stop the train he had to decide whether to save his son and allow hundreds on the train to perish or to bring down the bridge crushing his son in the process. In great torment and anguish he pulled the lever to lower the bridge crushing his son to death but saving the hundreds of passengers from certain death. The horrible anguish of the Bridgeman gave me a glimpse into the pain that our Heavenly Father endured as He watched His son’s excruciatingly painful march to Mount Calvary. Imagine the unspeakable horror and anguish of heart the Father endured as he watched his Son being brutally beaten beyond recognition (Isaiah 52:14), being mocked and spat upon, his back torn and mercilessly shredded by the Roman scourge, the Crown of thorns beaten down and piercing His scalp, pieces of His beard being ripped from His face (Isaiah 50:6) by the angry crowd along the route to Calvary. And then to see the unimaginable suffering His Son endured as His torn back was violently thrust against the rough wooden cross and the metal spikes driven through the wrist area of the hand and then through His feet and ankles pinning Him to the cross. The cross was then agonizingly elevated and fell bone jarringly into the support hole in the ground. To watch His Son in agony with every breath he took as He hung there. Then to watch as He painfully lifted Himself upon His spiked limbs to enable Him to properly breathe. For hours He watched the horrifying spectacle of His Son’s torturous suffering allowing His presence to sustain Him in the midst of death’s ever tightening grip. Until the darkest moment in history came when God the Son who knew no sin bore the filth of the sin of all mankind upon Himself that we might be forgiven (2 Corinthians 5:21). In that instant as He bore upon Himself the iniquity and sin of us all (Isaiah 53:5-6, 11-12) the Father could no longer commune with Him as all the immoral and vile filth of ages was upon Him. The Father had to look away as His wrath came upon our unrighteousness crushing the Lamb who bore our sin. In that moment, for the first time in all eternity the Son was separated from the sustaining communion of His Father. And in that moment of great darkness and despair as He hung all alone in physical, emotional and spiritual torment He cried out, *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me”* (Matthew 27:46b). The immensity of such great suffering no man could bear and in that final moment He cried out again in a loud voice; *“Father, into your hands I commit My Spirit.” And then he breathed his last* (Luke 23:46). Later, when the soldier pierced his side to confirm that Jesus was dead (John 19:34) both water and blood issued forth from the wound near his heart. Many physicians believe that this was physical evidence that in the midst of his great agony that His heart literally ruptured or burst. Jesus our loving Saviour literally died of a broken heart for us all.

We need to pause for a moment to reflect upon the immensity of the love and sacrifice of our God for each of us at the Cross. No greater love has ever been demonstrated in the history of the universe. Thankfully, this is not where the story ends. Three days later Jesus miraculously arose triumphantly over Satan, death and the grave. Proving Himself to be God the Son and that He had successfully fulfilled his mission to redeem humanity from the curse of sin and death to provide the way for us to have eternal life (Hallelujah!)



**How Should We Respond to this Wondrous Revelation of God’s Love?**

Jesus said, *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No greater love has one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends”* (John 15:12-13).

[](http://www.christart.com/clipart/art_info/293/)Jesus’ unspeakable sacrifice truly demonstrated the wondrous and unparalled love of both God our Heavenly Father and His Son. Knowing the reality and depth of such unfathomable love and sacrifice how can one ever question God’s love for us. God forgive us for ever doubting Your love or for ever blaming You for the evil that Satan and his wicked forces have inflicted upon us and this world system. No one has ever suffered or sacrificed to the degree that Jesus did for us. He, out of love for us gave up everything in order to come to this world and die for us that we might be saved. All that He asks of us is that we come to Him in faith and yield our lives in obedience to His good purpose. He lovingly gave up everything for us and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. We should in response to such love be willing to give Him our lives because He is worthy. The wonderful thing is if we truly believe in Him and surrender to His love we shall receive His precious gift of eternal life. Deb and I experienced the transforming power of God’s love in 1982 and received this priceless gift of everlasting life.

**Our Personal Journey into the Joy of New Life**

It was back in the early 1980’s that Deb and I began to see for ourselves these wonderful truths. Even though we had both successfully graduated from University, had good jobs and were about to buy our dream home, we were empty inside. At the time we were living together in a common law relationship. We led an active life, enjoying sports, relaxing at the cottage, drinking and partying with our friends, but something was missing. On the outside everything looked great, but on the inside there was a huge void. Sure the material pleasure and pursuits, the sexual activity and the highs from drinking and drugs brought us fleeting and temporary moments of gratification, but ultimately it left us unfulfilled. From my Catholic upbringing I had learned about God, but never really knew Him. During this time I began to cry out in my heart

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to the Lord that there must be more to life than this and to please show me. He began to send people into my path who would share about knowing Jesus personally. How I needed to receive His gift of forgiveness and eternal life that He provided for me through His death and resurrection. Al Buckwheat, a friend whom I had worked with in Chatham would often share spiritual things with me. One thing that really got my attention was regarding Bible prophecy and how it was being fulfilled today. After Deb and I had done some reading and research into

[](http://www.dreamstime.com/excited-group-of-business-people-isolated-image6524446)

prophetic fulfillments we were blown away. God enabled us to see that His end time prophetic revelation was being fulfilled all over the world and that Jesus’ promised return was near at hand. As a result, we both realized in our own personal struggle within that we were sinners separated from our loving God? I began to see the reality of the years of sinfulness in my own life. My sins of pride, selfishness, the lust for pornography and women, anger, swearing, jealousy and drunkenness to name a few. I could see how at times I was guilty of lying and deceiving and also stealing from the government (income tax) and from others (getting sick pay when not sick). I realized that if I died I would rightly deserve eternal punishment in hell. At the same time if Jesus returned I knew I was totally unprepared and would surely face His wrath and judgment.

**The Devil’s Last Stand and Birth into New Life**

After one of the worst weekends of my life of partying, drunkenness and troublemaking (we called it having fun) I came to the end of myself. I decided that this lifestyle was not worth losing my eternal life over and I wanted to get my life right with God. That week I had a business, appointment with Al. When at his home I don’t remember talking anything about business I was only interested in talking about Jesus. That night Al asked me if I wanted to ask Jesus to come into my life to be My Lord and Saviour. Needless to say – I did and after praying with me over his coffee table I received Jesus Christ into my life and was dramatically born again and changed by the Spirit of God. I left that house a changed man. A new joy, peace and power filled my life. I went home to Debra and told her we couldn’t live like we were anymore. We needed to get married, find a good church and get our lives on track with God and His purpose for our lives. Since that time we’ve never looked back. At times it’s not been easy and we’ve faced many struggles along this journey, but our precious Lord and our loving Heavenly Father have always been with us. No matter what we’ve encountered He has always been faithful to give us the victory through the power of His blessed Holy Spirit.

**A Choice: The Narrow Road or the Broad Road?**

Where are you in your own personal journey? Jesus revealed in His Word that there are only two roads in life that we may journey down.

Jesus declared; *“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many that choose that way. But the gateway to life* (eternal) *is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it”* (Matthew 7:13-14 NLT).

Jesus explains that the one road is the broad road which is translated “highway to hell” in the New Living Translation. This road leads to eternal torment in hell. The Rock group AC/DC mockingly sing “I’m on the highway to hell.” Sadly, what they sing is true for most because of what Jesus revealed in the above passage. That is, that most people choose that way. However it need not be this way. For Jesus Himself provided a way referred to as “the narrow road” which leads to life eternal. First of all what does this wide gate and broad road to destruction represent? Essentially it is the selfish, proud and rebellious way of man. It includes any religious effort devised by man to reach God on their own terms rather than on God’s terms. It also includes those who live for themselves and make little or no effort to obey God; they too are on this broad road. Jesus said that there is a small gate and narrow road that leads to eternal life and only a few choose to find that way. The good news is that you can be one of those who choose to find this road to life eternal. What is this small gate that Jesus refers to in this passage? The Word of God reveals that Jesus is the small gate that leads us to salvation and eternal life.

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*“…so He* (Jesus) *explained it to them: “I tell you the truth I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Those who come in through Me will be saved … “The thief’s* (Satan’s) *purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life”* (John 10:7-10 NLT).

**Jesus the Only Gateway to Eternal Life**

In the above passage Jesus clearly reveals that He is the small gate that opens to the narrow road which leads to salvation and everlasting life. In fact as we read in the John 14:6 Jesus declares that He is the only way to God the Father. In Acts 4:12 the apostle Peter declares that only in Jesus Christ’s name can we be saved from our sins. *“God* (the Father) *has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”*  Jesus also reveals in John 10:10 that Satan and his fallen demonic army comes only to steal from us and kill us that we may be destroyed eternally. The principle thing that he endeavours to steal from us is the true knowledge of the gift of salvation that is only through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the process he robs us of the only source of true and lasting love, and fulfillment. Through his many forms of lies and deception, he endeavours to keep us from coming to or fully trusting in Jesus Christ. If successful he will rob us of the truly abundant and fulfilling life God desires for us both now and for all eternity.

[](http://www.christart.com/clipart/art_info/1747/)

The good news is that God’s desire is that not one of us would perish, but that we would all come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (2 Peter 3:9). That is why He is using us to share this message of His love with you. That you also may know the truth and get free of any satanic deception and bondage and enter into the joy and freedom of His love. Are you willing to sincerely seek to know Him and to surrender your life into His loving care and control?

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to (God) the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).*

Only Jesus is God, only Jesus lovingly emptied Himself of His glorious power as God and willingly became one of His own creation and walked among us to reveal the Father’s love. Only Jesus lovingly endured the horrible torture of the Roman scourge and the Cross for our salvation from sin. Not Buddha, not Mohammed, not Confucius, not Allah nor any of the multitudes of Hindu gods – only Jesus Christ. No one is condemning those who belong to other religions. In fact we truly love everyone from all religious backgrounds. We also love them enough to share the truth. Not to offend, but in hope that they will humbly receive the knowledge of the truth and be saved. Many true Christians have given their lives throughout history for their beloved Saviour, but none have ever taken another’s life in His name. Any religion that kills others in the name of god is not from the true God. Only Satan comes to kill and destroy. He uses false religion and false Christianity to accomplish his goals. No matter what our religious background may be, we all need to come to the Truth. The Truth (Jesus) humbly came to us, now let us humbly come to Him in genuine repentance of our sin and in full surrender of our lives.

**Repentance Our First Step to Forgiveness**

*“We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23 NKJV).

*For the wages* (penalty) *of sin is* (eternal) *death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 6:23 NKJV).

Whether it is pride, selfishness, drunkenness, lust, sexual immorality, homosexuality, jealousy, anger, lying, swearing, stealing, unforgiveness, disobedience (rebellion) to our parents or other authority or not loving God with all our hearts and our neighbours as ourselves - we have all sinned. We are all guilty before God. Deb and I don’t condemn you as we shared above we’ve been guilty of many of the same things. We are all sinners in need of the Saviour. God loves us but He hates our sin. He will not allow sin to enter into His Heavenly Kingdom. The Good News is that God provided a way for us to be cleansed from our sin. Jesus declared that in order to come into His Kingdom and escape the power and penalty of our sin we must genuinely repent and believe (Mark 1:15). True repentance involves a willingness to acknowledge one’s sin and by God’s grace and help, turn away from our selfish and sinful actions and attitudes. This involves the surrender of our lives and wills to God to do His will and not our own. It is a surrender of our plans, our desires and our lives to obey His good plan and desires for our lives. It is only in walking in His good purpose for our lives that we will truly experience lasting joy and His abundant life. Jesus explained it this way:

*“Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, He* (Jesus) *said, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But, if you give up your life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your* (eternal) *soul?* (Mark 8:34-37 NLT)

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**We Choose Our Eternal Destiny**

Nothing in this world even remotely compares to the value of our eternal souls. Everything in this world is temporary and will pass away or be left behind. On the other hand our soul will live on forever and ever time without end. The narrow road leads to an eternity in a place where the beauty and joy is beyond our ability to imagine (I Corinthians 2:9). The broad road leads to a place of unspeakable horror and torment. The broad road is the choice of all who reject or neglect God’s priceless gift of salvation in Christ. All those who choose this road will reap the following:

*“…must drink the wine of God’s anger. It has been poured full strength into God’s cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur … The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief* (rest) *day or night …”* (Revelation 14:10-11).

*He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son* (child). *But the cowardly*, (those who draw back in fear), *unbelieving, abominable* (homosexuals, child abusers, etc), *murderers, sexually immoral* (lust, masturbation, adultery, sex before marriage etc.), *sorcerers* (any form of witchcraft), *idolaters* (false religion & greed) *and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death* (Revelation 21:7-8)

The horror of an eternal place of torment and suffering is real. This is why we urge you and plead with you to surrender your life to Jesus’ Lordship. For as we truly repent (turn from our sin and surrender our lives) and believe in Jesus’ sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection we will be saved.

**True Faith the Next Step to Salvation**

*“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”* (Romans 10:9).

Faith in Jesus is the second vital step in receiving God’s precious gift of salvation.

*[](http://www.christart.com/clipart/art_info/1952/)“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT).

Are you willing to believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and that His suffering and death was the full and adequate payment for your sin? Are you willing to admit that your Jesus, good or religious works cannot save you from your sin but only Jesus? If you truly believe then you can have this assurance from Jesus Himself as He said,

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life*” (John 6:47 NKJV).

**The Final Step: Receiving Jesus as Lord**

If you are willing to truly repent and believe in Jesus your heart is now prepared to receive Him as Lord and Saviour of your eternal soul. In order for His grace and cleansing from sin to be applied to your life; it is necessary by faith to ask Him to come in and take His rightful place as Lord and Master over your life.

Jesus declared; “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine* (commune) *with him, and he with Me* (Revelation 3:20 NKJV).

When we willingly invite Jesus to come in and take control of our lives this is what the scripture promises will take place

*“But to all who believed Him and received Him, He gave the right* (power) *to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a (re)birth that comes from God* (John 1:12-13 NLT).

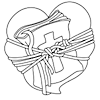
If you are willing to take these simple but powerful steps of faith and surrender you will experience the life transforming power of the born again experience (John 3:1-8). The blood of Jesus will cleanse away every sin in your life (I John 1:9) and His Holy Spirit will enter into your life to empower you to hear and obey God’s voice (John 10:27-28). His new supernatural nature will indwell you by His Spirit enabling you step by step to overcome your old fallen nature and to walk victoriously over sin and temptation (Romans 8:9-14).

**The Most Important Decision of Your Life**

[](http://www.christart.com/clipart/art_info/1301/)If you want to commit your life to Jesus and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour, we can pray a simple prayer with you right now. The prayer has no power in itself. But if you are truly genuine in your desire, God will come by the power of His Spirit into you life and the transformation will begin today. Please do not take lightly the opportunity God is now presenting you. This is the most important decision of your entire life and we urge you to open your heart and receive His precious gift of salvation today. Deb and I are merely instruments of God to help you to hear His loving call as the following scripture confirms;

*“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf be reconciled to God. For He* (God the Father) *made Him* (Jesus) *who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become* (receive) *the righteousness of God in Him. We then as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time, Behold, now is the day of salvation* (2 Cor. 5:20-6:2 NKJV).

**A Simple Prayer of Faith and Repentance (Surrender)**

[](http://www.christart.com/clipart/download/1846/)If you sincerely desire to make today your day of salvation pray a simple prayer from your heart something like the following: “Dear Heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus’ name. I thank you Father for sending Your only Son to die on the cross for me. Lord Jesus I believe You died and rose again paying the full penalty for my sin and proving You made a way for me to enter heaven. I admit that I have sinned against You and others and that I need Your loving provision of forgiveness and salvation. Right now I ask you to forgive me and cleanse me of all my sin. I now turn from my sins and I ask You to set me free from the power of sin and give me Your precious gift of eternal life. Lord Jesus I ask You to come into my heart and take control of my life. I surrender my life to You. From this day forward as You give me strength, I will seek to serve You and obey you in all areas of my life. Thank you for Your gift of eternal life and for coming into my life as my Lord and my Saviour. In Jesus’ Precious Name. Amen!”

**We Rejoice With All Who Receive the Priceless Gift**

If you have sincerely prayed this prayer a miracle of forgiveness and transformation has begun in your life. You have received the priceless gift of eternal life just as Jesus promised;

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life* (John 6:47).”

We rejoice with you as do the angels in heaven. Please let us know of your decision and any help we can give you with your commitment to follow and obey the Lord Jesus.

**No Cost Compares to What You Gain**

For those of you who are not yet ready. We encourage you to maintain an open heart and to continue to meditate and ponder upon the truths shared in this message. It is not a decision to be entered into without first counting the cost of this most important step. We respect and commend you for not entering into such a vital decision without first fully assessing and understanding its implications for your life. Jesus Himself exhorted those who would consider becoming His disciples to first count the cost and make sure they’re willing to pay the price to follow Him (see Luke 14:25-35). Let us assure you that no matter the cost in this life it is worth far more than any sacrifice you’ll make. Jesus gives us far more than what we leave behind. He said He came to give us life and life more abundantly and fully. We can testify from 27 years of experience that the joy, peace, love, freedom and the fulfillment in this life and the unimaginable joy and assurance of eternal life in the next life is worth any and every sacrifice.

**Not Everyone Will Support Your Decision**

The reality is that in choosing to follow Jesus there will be a cost, but it pales in significance to all we gain in our relationship with Him. Jesus warned us that to follow Him may cost us materially and relationally but He would help us each step of the way. He must become our supreme love far above all other loves in our lives. Jesus warned that when we come to Him that not every one in our lives will respect and support our decision and that it will cause divisions. Jesus said,

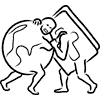
*“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man’s enemies will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more that Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it* (Matthew 10:34-39 NKJV).

Jesus understood the strong bondage of the pride of man, his religious pride and the pride in family traditions. He knew that He would be calling people out of every form of false religion and the bondage of pride involved especially within families and cultures. Consequently, He understood the conflict and divisions that would result among families when members would choose to forsake their erroneous family religion and follow Him. He knew the result would be enmity and strife due to this religious and cultural pride. Therefore He warned that we cannot love any family member or their desires above Him and His desire to bring us into the truth. We must love Him and be loyal to Him above all others no matter what it may cost us or the fallout it may cause. Then we must trust Him that He loves our families and that He will do whatever is possible to bring them to the knowledge of the truth that they too might be saved. The worst thing we can do is to choose the way of compromise in such situations thinking or hoping it will somehow help by submitting to our family member’s desires rather than Jesus. The result as the above scripture reveals is that we will lose our salvation and effectively destroy any hope for our family as well. The best thing in these situations is to meekly and respectfully stand for Jesus and the truth of God’s Word. Humbly speak the truth in explaining your determination to follow Jesus and then trust Him to work in their hearts to bring them to salvation in His time.

**God’s Children Receive Power to Overcome Sin**

*“But to all who believed Him* (Jesus) *and received Him* (Jesus), *He gave the right* (power) *to become children of God” (*John 1:12 NLT).

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we receive the power to become children of God. We are endued with the power but we must choose to yield ourselves to His Spirit’s work in our lives.



After experiencing our conversion Deb and I both received this supernatural empowering of the Holy Spirit to overcome sinful habits and temptation. I was amazed when I immediately was able to stop swearing, drinking and lusting for pornography and sexual activity. Incredibly after Jesus came into my life I had a new power to control my thought life, my anger and my tongue. We didn’t become perfectly sinless, but we both experienced an amazing freedom and power to progressively overcome selfish and sinful habits. Occasionally our friends would invite us to a hotel or bar, but we no longer had a desire or need for drinking anymore. We now had a deep inner joy, and rest of soul from His Spirit within and we no longer needed alcohol or drugs to stimulate us artificially. It was a wonderful new freedom from outward habits and a joyous satisfaction and fulfillment within. I remember one friend commenting to me, “How can you change so much so quickly?” It wasn’t me but it was Jesus who had changed me, I explained to him. Jesus began this transformation in our lives in 1982 and it continues today. Step by step as we humbly yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit within, He progressively conforms us day by day to become more like Jesus.

**The Great Peril of Yielding to Self Will/Disobedience**

The important thing for each of us who profess to be “Born Again” Christians and who have experienced the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit is to remain yielded and obedient to His Word. The old sinful nature is defeated through Christ, but it can reassert itself if we allow it. If we yield to its selfish and carnal urgings it will lead us back into the entanglement of worldly lusts and desires. This will lead to a quenching of the Holy Spirit’s fire and desire to do our Father’s will and bring us back into the bondage of living for “self.” Ultimately this leads to a lukewarm half hearted Christian life and a return to lawless, disobedient behaviour. We must always remember Jesus’ warning in Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV).

*“Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day “Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you depart from Me you who practice lawlessness! (*self will/disobedience).

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”* (John 3:36 NASV).

… *when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power* (II Thessalonians 7b-9).

**Victorious Christians Live to Do the Father’s Will**

If we are professing Christians we must constantly examine our lives to make sure whose will we are doing – His or our own. Whether you have just begun your new life with Him or you’ve known Him for 20 years we need to continually guard against falling back into living for self. Self and self will is the biggest idol in our lives. The first of God’s Ten Commandments is that, *“You shall have no other gods before or besides Me”* (Exodus 20:3 Amplified Bible). This includes the biggest “god” in our lives the god of self. Jesus addressed this powerful hindrance in our lives and warned of the consequences of not overcoming it.

*“When He* (Jesus) *had called the people to Himself with his disciples also, He said to them, Whoever desires to come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life* (live for self) *will lose it, but whoever loses His life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it”* (Mark 8:34-35 NKJV).

In essence Jesus warns us that if we decide to live for ourselves we will lose our eternal life. But if we will freely give up our lives for Him and for the work of spreading His gospel message we will gain eternal life. In fact this summarizes the Father’s will in a “nutshell.” It is to give our lives to lovingly (intimately) know and obey Him and to make Him known to others that they might be saved. If this is the primary focus of our lives we will experience true fulfillment, His great joy, peace and the continual refreshing of His presence. We will also see the fruit of precious souls being brought into His eternal family. However, if this is not our primary focus we will (for the most part) be fruitless, frustrated, discouraged and empty because our focus has been too much on ourselves and worldly pleasure.

**If We Love Him We Will Obey His Commands**

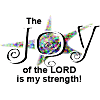
We all have the responsibility out of love for Him to go into the world to proclaim His good news and to help make disciples (Mark 16:15-18, Matthew 28:18-20). Sadly, many professing Christians do not share their faith; they love the things of the world and lose their passion for God. If we are not obeying this basic command or others revealed in His Word then we are not doing our Father’s will. Perhaps you are now realizing that even though you profess to be a Christian you are doing more of your own will rather than the Father’s will. You may be just now fully understanding how much He loves and sacrificed for you and how He deserves your total and unreserved obedience. If you would like to receive His forgiveness for holding onto your life and totally yield yourself to Him today then please pray something like this; “Heavenly Father please forgive me for living more for myself rather than for You and your will. I thank You for Your mercy in showing me the error of my ways. Please help me by Your grace to truly surrender my life to do Your will and to obey Your commands daily. Help me to get my focus off worldly pleasures and distractions and to get my focus on loving You and others that I may share Your love with them. In Jesus’ Precious Name. Amen.”

If there is any way we can help you to remain faithful and accountable to your commitment to the Lord please feel free to contact us. By God’s grace we will be happy to pray with you and to encourage you in whatever way we can. Sharing our faith can be such a great joy if we are properly equipped. Let us know if you need any help in this area.

**The Vital Importance of Seeking Intimacy with God**

One very important thing we have learned in our journey with the Lord is our great need to seek and spend time with Him every day (Isaiah 40:31). He is the source of our joy and strength and without Him we cannot walk in victory over our carnal fleshly desires, the temptation of satanic spirits or the allurement of this ungodly world system. However as we daily wait upon Him and seek Him in His Word and in prayerful communion we receive new strength to overcome in all these areas.

**Studying God’s Word Reveals Him and His Will**

*His word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path* (Psalm 119:105). Our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus primarily speak to us through the scriptures and it is the Holy Spirit Who reveals and teaches us God’s Word. Jesus said that, *“man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth*[](http://www.christart.com/clipart/art_info/42/) *of God”* (Matthew 4:4 NKJV). All scripture is inspired by God to help us know Him and understand His ways (2 Timothy 3:16). It is the spiritual “road map” that leads us down the narrow road that leads to eternal life (Matthew 7:21-27). It is impossible to have a relationship with God without studying and meditating in His Word daily. His Word is our spiritual nourishment. If we don’t eat regularly we become weak and sickly. A lack of food can even lead to starvation and death. It is the same thing with our spiritual life, if we do not feed on the Word of God we become spiritually weak, sickly and ultimately without it we will die. New “baby” Christians need to be feeding on the Word daily just like a natural baby hungers for its milk. The Bible declares, *“as newborn babes, desire (hunger for) the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”* The Bible also reveals that as we study and meditate on God’s Word day and night and seek to obey it that God will cause us to prosper and have good success (Joshua 1:8).

**The Holy Spirit Our Helper, Teacher and Empowerer**

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and Empowerer who enables us to understand and obey God’s Word (John 14:15-16, 25-26). The Holy Spirit also empowers us to boldly and effectively share our faith with others (Acts 1:8). Daily we need to ask our Heavenly Father to refill us with His Spirit that we may continually walk in victory over worldly lusts/temptations and for power to share our faith (Acts 4:24-31; 5:32; Luke 11:9-13).

**Worship & Prayer Yoked with His Word is Loving Him**

If we truly love God we should desire to spend time hearing from Him through His word and then humbly obey what He reveals to us as His children. We should also desire to talk to him through prayer and express our love and appreciation of Him through worship. Daily communion with God involves all three of these very important areas; prayer, worship and meditation in His Word. True love of God means we desire to spend quality time with Him daily in these three areas. In seeking Him we will get to know Him and experience the joy of His powerful renewing presence in our lives. In His presence we will receive His wisdom and strength to know and do His will and the power to overcome every temptation.

**Choosing the Right Church is Critical for Survival**

In order to properly grow and mature as followers of Christ we also need to be part of a good church family. A loving church where the pastors truly know God and are able to nurture and equip us to fulfill God’s will for our lives (Ephesians 4:11-12). The first prophetic warning Jesus gave regarding this end time generation is regarding false and deceptive religious communities and leaders. He warned that they would teach about Him as the Christ, but that they would “deceive many” (Matthew 24:4-5). Consequently, it is critically important where we choose to fellowship and attend church. If what we have been sharing with you in this message is not being taught where you currently attend church, prayerfully consider finding a new church where the full Gospel is being taught. A true Christian Church will teach people how to be born again by the Holy Spirit through faith and repentance. They will help you to obey important basic commands that Jesus gave such as water baptism and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper or Communion. Infant baptism which is practiced in many mainline churches is a false practice. Jesus commanded believers who had truly repented and believed to be baptized by full immersion as a public confession of their commitment to follow Him. Infant sprinkling is not baptism, it should only be considered at best a dedication of the child to bring them up in the understanding and teaching of God’s ways. True baptism is a believer’s baptism. In undertaking a believer’s baptism you are publically testifying of your inward conversion and commitment to follow Christ. When you are lowered and immersed in the water it is publically testifying that you have repented and died to your old sinful life. When you are raised up out of the water it is publically testifying that you have been “born again” and have been resurrected into the new life in Christ. It is a vital step of obedience and identifying with Christ as well as public declaration of our commitment to follow Him. Sadly many who come out of mainline churches because of misunderstanding or due to family and religious pressures do not follow through in this important step of obedience to Christ. Please do not succumb to this type of pressure or compromise. The consequences we have seen for those who do not follow through in this very important first step of obedience to Christ is devastating. We have not seen one new convert to Christ who has been genuinely born again – go on to become strong and true followers of Christ if they have not obeyed His command to be baptized as a believer. Therefore we urge you to find a good church that will encourage and help you to fully obey all that Jesus commands us. Compromising, half hearted Christianity leads to worldliness and lukewarmness that can cost us our very souls. Jesus warned that if we are lukewarm or halfhearted in our commitment to Him we will be unprepared for His coming and He will not allow us to enter His Kingdom (see Matthew 25:1-13 and Revelation 3:15-19). Therefore we urge you to find a church whose leadership is uncompromising in their declaration of God’s Word and in the equipping of God’s people to obey it. If we can help you in this regard please let us know.

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**We Are Forever Grateful to Our Loving Abba Father**

In closing let us assure with you that God has always been there for us through every trial and crisis in our lives. Faithfully protecting us, encouraging us, comforting us, healing us and providing for us. Whatever we have faced He has lovingly undertaken for us proving His unwavering goodness and mercy. He is a loving and caring Father who always causes us to triumph and causes whatever situation we face to work together for our good. Even those times when He has had to discipline or correct us it has always been in love and always for our good. Deb and I know Him as our Abba Father because of our precious Lord and Saviour’s sacrifice that enabled us to be born into the family of God. We will be forever grateful for His everlasting love and mercy that has allowed us the awesome privilege to be called His son and His daughter. It will take eternity to properly thank Him and praise Him for all He has done and for the incredible honour of worshipping in His presence.

**Our Sincere Prayer is For You to be With Us Forever**

Beloved family and friends, our earnest prayer is that you will be with us enjoying the awesome beauty and wonder of His presence forever. We have tasted of His goodness and experienced the fullness of joy that comes from being in His presence. Nothing in this world comes even remotely close to the joyful ecstasy and awe of being close to Him. Whatever it costs you to surrender your life to Him, it will be more than worth it all. He came to you and gave all for you, now is the time for you to come to Him and give your all for Him. In closing we want to express our love to every family member and every friend who has received this message. We pray that our Lord will open your eyes to see that the hour is late. Jesus is coming back very soon. All the shakings and catastrophes we see throughout the world only confirm that we are in the countdown to eternity. Our hope, our prayer for you dear one is that you too will surrender to His love and be born into His everlasting family. That we may spend eternity together loving Him and loving one another time without end. Amen!

P.S. Please feel free to call us or contact us at:

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*Please note all scriptures designated by:*

NKJV are New King James Version of the Holy Bible

NLT are New Living Translation of the Holy Bible

Other free booklets we’ve composed and made available are:

1) “Where In The World Are We Headed?” 2) “Countdown To Eternity”. They both contain powerful revelation of end time prophecy that will greatly help you. It would be our pleasure to send you a free copy upon request.

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